Pitfalls of irresponsibility

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER

Lesson for March 23, 1980
Scripture Reference: John 18:28 to 19:16
Focal Passage: John 19:1-11
Passing the Buck! [John 18:28-32]

At one time or another most of us have had a difficult time accepting responsibility for our actions. We sometimes find it more convenient to blame someone or something outside ourselves for our wrongdoing or undoing. Deep down we all know that to act irresponsibly only makes life more complicated for ourselves and others. This week we look at a man who avoided his political responsibility and opened the way for the trial and death of Jesus. That man was Pilate.

The Jewish leaders came to Pilate and encouraged him to pass judgment and sentence upon Jesus. But Pilate was a man without integrity and a clear sense of purpose, that is, he was a tool or puppet of the Roman State.

The Jews didn't possess the authority to carry out a death sentence, so they turned to Pilate to get him to pass judgment upon Jesus. Neither Pilate nor the Jews were willing to make their own judgments.

We cannot always expect someone else to make our decisions for us. There comes a time in our growing process when our parents can no longer accept responsibility for our life. TCOYL is a formula which means **Take Charge Of Your Life!** We cannot sit around idle all the time and expect someone to come and rescue us from our troubles. We must "take charge" and to act irresponsibly only makes life more complicated for ourselves and others. This week we look at a man who avoided his political responsibility and opened the way for the trial and death of Jesus. That man was Pilate.

The Bible and daily living

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Pilate Passed Jesus Back! [John 18:29-32]

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Pilate Found Himself Washing His Hands! [John 18:33-40]

On a second occasion Pilate confronted Jesus and asked whether he was the King of the Jews. It appears rather obvious that Pilate was made uneasy by the very presence of Jesus. Pilate was not facing any ordinary Jewish citizen; he was facing the Son of God.

Jesus explained to Pilate that his kingship was not of their shared world. Pilate understood only that kingship which was supported by political power. Jesus represented a kingdom that was spiritually oriented and did not require the use of force. Jesus represented a kingdom of truth and love, but a man like Pilate could never relate to the kind of truth that Jesus was proclaiming. Pilate figured that the Jews would choose Jesus as their king if he were to present Jesus to them, but he soon found out that they would choose Barabbas instead.

A Central Theme He Stood! [John 18:37]

All through the dramatic trial of Jesus we see Pilate attempting to shift away from his responsibility. He authorized the brutal flogging of Jesus, but did so in a way that would keep him at a distance so as to avoid responsible for the death sentence.

Verse five, however, suggests that Pilate had a compassionate heart. He seems to say, "Surely this brutal beating will appease your bloodthirsty appetites!" But even if Pilate had pity in his heart, it wasn't enough to turn the tide of hatred and bitterness the people felt toward Jesus. They cried all the more loudly, "Crucify him!" Pilate is, therefore, caught in the middle of things. To go against the Jewish people might cause him his position within the Roman political machine.

The Courage To Do What Is Right [John 19:8-16]

By this time Pilate had reached the end of his rope. Due to his irresponsibility and unwillingness to judge with integrity, Pilate now faced his task with expediency as opposed to facing it with justice.

It takes a courageous person to follow after what is right. Too often we tend to follow the path of least resistance rather than follow the path that leads to truth and justice. We sell out in order to save our hides from the crowd's criticisms.

Pilate found himself in the "hot seat" because he was unwilling to stand for truth and justice. For the sake of his position he would not defend Jesus' right to a fair and just trial.

One individual can make a shambles of good government. But its also true that one person with integrity, a person sensitive to the kingdom of God, a person sensitive to human need, can make justice a reality for both individuals and society as a whole.

Dr. Trimyer is pastor of Elon Baptist Church in Pamplin, Va.

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Cattle producers nix program

By TOM CONRAD

Preliminary results of the nation-wide referendum indicate cattle producers have voted against implementing a national beef research and information program.

Of the 231,032 ballots cast, 151,119, or 65 percent, were against the program. There were 79,913 votes in favor. There were 200,445 beef producers registered and eligible to vote in the referendum conducted February 19-22.

If the referendum had passed, the program would have provided for assessments on beef producers to finance research and information activities designed to improve markets for cattle, beef and beef products.

The Beef Research and Information Act was enacted in May 1976 and amended in August 1978. It could not become effective, however, until three items had been accomplished:

eligible beef producers had to register to vote.

at least 50 percent of those registered had to vote.

a majority of those voting had to vote affirmatively.

Tobacco growers reject one quota, approve two others - Preliminary returns indicate growers of burley and Virginia sun-cured tobacco have voted for marketing quotas for their 1980, 1981 and 1982 crops, but producers of Maryland tobacco have overwhelmingly disapproved marketing quotas.

Returns show growers approved marketing quotas for burley tobacco by a 98.6 percent margin. Telephoned reports from ASCS state offices indicate 219,954 of the 223,115 voters were in favor of marketing quotas.

Initial reports indicate 93.3 percent of the 297 Virginia growers casting ballots in the sun-cured tobacco referendum approved the quotas.

A vote of two-thirds or more in favor of burley and Virginia sun-cured marketing quotas puts the quotas in effect for the next three crops. Therefore, price support loans will be available on the 1980, 1981 and 1982 crops of burley and Virginia sun-cured tobaccos.

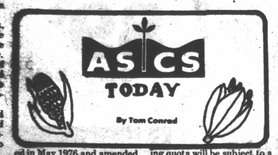
Any Virginia sun-cured tobacco produced in excess of farm acreage allotments and any burley tobacco marketed in excess of 110 percent of a farm's marketing quota will be subject to a marketing penalty of 75 percent of the average market price for the previous marketing year.

Quotas were last in effect for Maryland tobacco in 1965.

Legislation requires USDA every three years to proclaim marketing quotas for Maryland tobacco. However, before the quotas can take effect, two-thirds of the producers voting need to approve the quota program. Since growers disapproved the February 1 proclamation of quotas, there will be no limit on production and no price support for Maryland tobacco.

On February 1, the USDA announced the 1980 national burley tobacco marketing quota at 615 million pounds, unchanged from 1979. Voters approved this quota. For the 1981 and 1982 burley crops, the Secretary of Agriculture has authority to adjust the national marketing quota (within legislated limits) without grower approval.

Since 1944, burley producers have consistently approved quotas by majorities of between 98 and 99 percent.



Local 4-H programs are rescheduled

By FRANK H. SWEET
Extension Agent

Two 4-H programs have been rescheduled due to bad weather during the past two weeks. The Lucky Clover 4-H Club will meet on Monday, March 31, at 7:00 p.m. at the Pamplin Elementary School. Mr. Ralph Inge and Mr. Tony Clifton will conduct a CPR Training Workshop for all club members.

The Evergreen 4-H Club will meet tonight (Thursday, March 20) at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Karen Stevens (Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Stevens). Philip and Cecil Jacobs will present a special program on electronics and model rocketry.

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The County Junior Demonstration Contest will be held on Saturday morning, March 29, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Appomattox Elementary School. All Junior members are encouraged to participate. Special workshops will be held on three afternoons at AES next week (Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday).

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The 4-H Egg Grading group will have a special field trip to Sentry Oakes Farm on Friday of this week. The young people who have been working with egg grading will have an opportunity to see a large commercial poultry operation.

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A reminder of the 4-H Swine Field Day to be held this Saturday, March 22 at

Happiness is 4-H

the R. M. Gunn Farm near Pamplin, Va. The program will help young people become aware of wine projects, tour a modern hog operation and learn the basics of hog judging. The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will be over by 3:00 p.m. Parents are invited to attend with their young people.

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The Pamplin Ruritan Club will once again sponsor the 4-H Wildlife Feed Patch program. Seed is provided by the Virginia Game Commission. Applications are available from the Extension Office.

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Miss Loretta Darlene Davis and Mr. Bryan Kenneth Selz

Miss Davis to wed Mr. Selz

Mr. and Mrs. John Southey Grinels of Appomattox announce the engagement of their daughter, Linda Carol Grinels, William Irby of Richmond, son of Mrs. Robert Cannon Irby of Blackstone, and the late Mr. Irby.

Miss Grinels was graduated from Mary Baldwin College and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Mr. Irby was graduated from Virginia Military Institute and is a member of Kappa Alpha.

The wedding is planned for May 10.

Miss Linda Carol Grinels

Miss Grinels to wed Mr. Irby

Mr. and Mrs. F. Stephen Davis Jr. of Amelia, Va. announce the engagement of their daughter, Loretta Darlene, to Bryan Kenneth Selz, son of Mrs. Bertram Neil Selz and the late Mr. Selz of Appomattox, Va.

Miss Davis is a 1975 graduate of Amelia County High School. She attended the University of Virginia and is presently a member of the United States Air Force assigned to the Pentagon, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Selz is a 1974 graduate of Appomattox County High School. He served in the United States Army and is presently enrolled at Va. Commonwealth University and working for the 7-UP Bottling Co. A May 31 wedding is planned.

Showers honors Miss Crowe

Miss Mechelle Crowe was honored Wednesday night, March 5, 1980, with a lingerie shower in the home of Mrs. Janice Carter.

Hostesses for the occasion were Ramora Gagneur and Peggy Handy.

Among the other guests was Mrs. Faye Crowe, mother of the bride. Miss Corwe received many nice gifts.

The wedding of Miss Mechelle Crowe to Mr. Michael will take place on April 5, 1980. Although no invitations are being sent, all friends and relatives are invited.

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Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Caldwell had as their week end guests Mr. H. H. Caldwell, Jr. of Dayton, Ohio, Miss Kathy Caldwell, Mr. Edward Caldwell and Mrs. E. L. Caldwell, Jr., all of Huntsville, Alabama, and Fred Caldwell of Chambersburg, PA.

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Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Coleman, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hudson, and Mrs. Gladys Johnson spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. Bob Montgomery at their home in Annandale. They also visited Mrs. Lougenia P. Doss and Mrs. Edwin S. Barron in Arlington.

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Bill Vaughan, a student at Ferrum College, spent the week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Vaughan.

• • •

Mrs. Frances H. Paulette and son, E. W., spent the week end in Blacksburg with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mott and daughter, Jennifer.

• • •

Mrs. Shelly D. Bryant has returned home from Virginia Baptist Hospital where she underwent surgery.

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Mrs. Nettie McCormick is a patient in Virginia Baptist Hospital undergoing tests.

Marriage announced

Dr. and Mrs. C. G. O'Brien announce the marriage of their daughter, Susan, on March 8, 1980 to Thomas Duval Moore, son of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Moore of Richmond, Va.

The couple will make their home in Richmond.

Rita Reynolds will be leaving for Cocoa Beaeh, Fla., March 19 on spring break. She will be traveling with Beverly Scheirier of Lewis, Delaware. Both girls are students at Louis Obici School of Nursing in Suffolk, Va.

• • •

J. Lloyd Hudson spent Monday and Tuesday of this week in Clarksville where he visited relatives.

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Womanless Wedding planned March 22

There's going to be a wedding on March 22 at 7:30 at the Appomattox County High School Auditorium . . . a different kind of wedding! Tickets for adults are only $2.00 and for students $1.00; children under six get in free. The event is being sponsored by the Appomattox County Extension Homemakers.

Participaitng in the WOMANLESS WEDDING will be quite a few of our prominent businessman and civic leaders.

Picture, if you will, Lloyd Walton, School Superintendent; Robert Carter, attorney, Gene Richardson, Sheriff, Lloyd Vaughan, of Appomattox Office Supplies, Zeb Saunders, Curt Wilson, John Hall, Billy Chernault, Jim Smith, Elementary School Principal, Terry Quesenberry, all dressed up in "wedding finery." Which one will be the loveliest?

You don't want to miss this event! Plan now to attend.

Brunch honors Miss Grinels, Mr. Irby

Mr. and Mrs. Martin L. Webb of 219 South Church Street honored Miss Linda Carol Grinels and her fiance, Mr. William Irby, both from Richmond, at a brunch in their home on March 3.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Grinels of Appomattox, and the groom is the son of Mrs. Robert C. Irby and the late Mr. Irby of Blackstone.

Invited guests from out-of-town included Mrs. Robert C. Irby of Blackstone; Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Cobbs, Blackstone; Mr. and Mrs. Brian E. Thomas, Chesapeake; Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Wagoner, Oldham; Miss Mabel V. Clary, Richmond; and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert D. Gordon, Richmond. Other guests were friends of the honored couple.

The marriage of Miss Grinels and Mr. Irby will take place in May.

Appomattox Garden Club to meet

Professor James A. Faiszt, extension specialist, Landscape Design, Department of Horticulture, at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, will be the guest speaker at the Appomattox Garden Club on Wednesday, March 26.

His topic will be "Drying Flowers for Home Beauty." The meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Memorial United Methodist Church at 7:30 p.m. (Members should note the change in date and place of meeting.)

Professor Faiszt has been an Associate Professor in the Department of Horticulture at VPI&SU since 1963. He holds a Masters Degree in Landscape Architecture from Louisiana State University and was Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture there from 1959-61.

Prior to that time he held positions as Landscape Architect with the Lambert Landscape Company in Louisiana and Texas, and with the Jefferson Davis Green Nurseries in Tennessee.

Artistic Exhibits are: Class I - "On Calvary Hill". Religious theme; Class II - "In Flight" (All classes, designer's choice of material, but must include some fresh plant material).

Mrs. Richard Robinson, president, will conduct the business session.

All members are urged to attend and bring a guest.

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